

Library

TOWN HALL,
DROITWICH.

August 1953.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members
of the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Veritable, Ladies and Gentlemen,

BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

During the year the general health of the population was
satisfactory.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was low
and it is especially gratifying that no cases of diphtheria,
polio or scarlet fever were notified during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT

The infant mortality rate of 3 per 1,000 live births is the
lowest figure ever recorded in the Borough. There were only one
death among infants under the age of one during the year. I consider
that this is a figure which will be difficult to maintain.

The Council has made a very good progress
with its health work. The health services were built up by
the Local Authority and supported by other persons during the
year under review.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I consider that the conditions of the
population were the most important basis for
the physical and mental health of the community.

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR &

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Following the usual custom the report is divided into
the undermentioned sections:-

for the year 1952.

SECTION A. Statistics.

SECTION B. Public Health Services,
for the year.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

SECTION D. Housing.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious Diseases.



TOWN HALL,
DROITWICH.

August 1953.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members
of the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

During the year the general health of the population was satisfactory.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was low and it is specially pleasing to report that no cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis nor of food poisoning were notified during the year.

The infantile mortality rate of 8 per 1,000 live births is the lowest figure ever recorded for the Borough. There was only one death among infants under 1 year of age during the year. I consider that this is a figure which will be difficult to maintain.

The Council are to be congratulated on the very good progress made with the housing programme. Sixty six houses were built by the Local Authority and seventeen by other persons during the year under review.

I consider that good housing conditions for the whole population form the most important basic factor in maintaining both the physical and mental good health of the people.

It is hoped that the Council will be able to continue the good progress made in housing during recent years.

Following the usual custom the report is divided into the undermentioned Sections :-

- | | |
|------------|--|
| SECTION A. | Statistics. |
| SECTION B. | General Provision of Health Services for the area. |
| SECTION C. | Sanitary Circumstances of the area. |
| SECTION D. | Housing. |
| SECTION E. | Inspection and Supervision of Food. |
| SECTION F. | Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease. |

SECTION A.
STATISTICS.

Area	1735 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1952	6627.
Number of inhabited houses 1952 according to Rate Books.	1678.
Rateable Value	£44,702.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£175.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics
for the year :-

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate 	63	59	122
Illegitimate 	3	-	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of resident population ...	18.86
Birth Rate England and Wales	15.3

Still Births.

Legitimate 	-	3	3
Illegitimate 	1	-	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.60
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales ...	0.35

Deaths.

Analysis of deaths	41	40	81
Death Rate per 1,000					
Estimated population	...	12.22			
Death Rate England and Wales		11.3			

Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES NIL.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age.

Legitimate 	-	1	1
Illegitimate 	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year 	8.0
Infantile Mortality Rate England and Wales ...	27.6

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
" other	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
" " lung, bronchus	4	-
" " breast	-	3
" " uterus	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6
Coronary disease, angina	6	5
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
Other heart diseases	7	6
Other circulatory diseases	2	-
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	-	5
Bronchitis	3	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-
All other accidents	1	-
Suicide	1	-
Homicide &c.	-	-
	<u>41</u>	<u>40</u>

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1946, the following services are provided by the County Council :-

(a) Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council. The Ambulance Station which serves the Borough of Droitwich is situated at Worcester. Complaints were made during the year that there had been delay in reaching certain cases of accident and emergency. This was reported to the County Medical Officer and discussions took place between his representatives and the Borough Council.

It was decided that the present arrangements with regard to the ambulance service for the Borough were adequate and could not be altered at the present time.

The hospital car service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the ambulance service proper.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the isolation hospitals.

(b) Home Nursing Service.

This service is provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse-Midwives work in the Borough. They attend midwifery cases and cases of general illness.

(c) Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Service on behalf of the County Council. It is an emergency service of domestic help in cases of sickness, confinement or accident.

(d) Smallpox Vaccination and Diphtheria Immunisation.

Vaccination and Immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own Doctor or at one of the County Council's clinics.

The following inoculations were done during 1952:-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year.	258
--	-----

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year.	105
--	-----

Vaccination.

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year.	173
---	-----

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year.	47
---	----

(c) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich, every Tuesday afternoon. Children can be immunised against diphtheria at this Clinic. The County Council's Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings in each month at the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

(f) Hospitals.

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases, which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to maternity homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham, and Worcester.

Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47, and Amendment Act 1951.

These sections place on district Medical Officers of Health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of people who are in need of care and attention.

The cases are most frequently brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health by the Welfare Officers of the County Council or by private doctors.

The people concerned are usually aged men or women in poor circumstances who have lived in the same home for many years and have been left alone through bereavement. With advancing years these old people become less able to look after themselves and consequently they are frequently found in a dirty and neglected state. Even so, from the experience I have gained in visiting these old people I have formed the opinion that compulsory powers for their removal to institutions should only be sought in the most extreme cases.

It appears that this problem of elderly people living alone is likely to increase with an ageing population and I consider that methods of helping these old people in their own homes by the provision of Home Helps and by the distribution of meals and other amenities should be considered and developed in the future.

No action was taken by the Council under these Sections during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water supply.

The water supply to the Borough, purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, continued to be adequate in both quantity and quality throughout the year. Samples were taken for analysis quarterly and gave satisfactory results. A copy of the County Analyst's report on a sample of this water is given below.

The majority of dwelling houses in the town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages, which have a supply from wells.

Number of standpipes in the area	12
Number of wells in the area	16

Report of County Analyst on sample of Town Water.

<u>Physical Characters.</u>	Clear
Odour	None
Deposit	None

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C)	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	29
" " " (After ignition)	26
Chlorides calculated as common salt	3.7
Hardness, Permanent	6
" temporary	11
" Total	17
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0014
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.67
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate)	0.026
Toxic Metals	None detected.
Residual chlorine on receipt	None

Note. To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7

OPINION.

The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE.

Date 25th Novr. 1952.

County Analyst.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37°C	NIL per 100 ml.
(b) Faecal Coli	NIL per cent.

OPINION.

The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) R. J. HENDERSON. M.B., Ch.B.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No changes were made in these services during the year. The Sewage Disposal Works situated in Hampton Road, were under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor.

3. Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken in this matter during the year.

4. Swimming Baths.

The open air swimming bath in the Brine Baths Park was kept under supervision during the year. Samples of water taken for analysis at intervals during the Summer were found to be satisfactory.

5. Refuse Disposal.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. The Council's tip, situated in Ombersley Road, is in a satisfactory condition. The tip was kept under supervision throughout the year by the Borough Surveyor.

Collections of refuse are made weekly from all premises and three times weekly from the large hotels.

7. Mortuary.

The building which has been used as a mortuary in the town for many years is situated in Friar Street. It is of brick and corrugated iron construction and it is in close proximity to dwelling houses and other buildings.

This mortuary serves the Borough of Droitwich and part of the rural areas which surround the Borough. In the past, the mortuary has been used infrequently and only for the reception of bodies. There is no suitable accommodation in the building for the performance of post mortem examinations.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The following table shows the housing work carried out during the year :-

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------|
| (1) | By the Local Authority | 66. |
| (2) | By other Local Authorities | NIL. |
| (3) | By other bodies or persons | 17. |

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 167 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 188 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932 | 87 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 96 |
| (3) | | Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | NIL. |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation | 155 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	155
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--|-------|
| (1) | Proceeding under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :- | | |
| | (a) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | NONE. |
| | (b) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :- | |
| | | By Owners | NONE. |
| | | By Local Authority in default of Owners | NONE. |
| (2) | Proceedings under Public Health Acts :- | | |
| | (a) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | NONE. |
| | (b) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :- | NONE. |
| | | By Owners | NONE. |
| | | By Local Authority in default of owners | NONE. |

HOUSING Continued -

(3) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made NONE.

(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders NONE.

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :-

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were made. NONE.

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit NONE.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year NO FIGURES AVAILABLE.

(b) Number of families dwelling therein "

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein "

(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year NONE.

(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3

(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases 21

(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved NONE.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This work again received special attention during the year. Routine inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold was carried out and a number of improvements effected as a result of informal action.

There are no licensed slaughter houses in use in the in the district at the present time.

There are three manufacturers and thirty four retailers of Ice Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. These premises were kept under supervision during the year.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

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SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Particulars of cases of infectious diseases which occurred during the year are shown in the following tables.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Measles	7	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough	37	Nil.	Nil.
Primary Pneumonia	3	Nil.	Nil.

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups.

Age Group	Measles. c	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia
Under 1 year	-	3	1
1 -	-	3	1
2 -	-	4	-
3 -	1	6	-
4 -	1	5	-
5 -	5	16	1
10 -	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-
Totals	7	37	3

Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below.

NEW CASES.					DEATHS.			
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of December 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 are given below:-

	Pulmonary Cases.		Non-pulmonary Cases.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1948	17	8	2	4
1949	20	10	2	4
1950	22	13	2	4
1951	23	15	2	5
1952	23	18	1	4

Meetings of the Tuberculosis Aftercare Committee for South Worcestershire are held quarterly. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculous patients and their families.

I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council, to the Town Clerk and other Officers for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

Borough Surveyor's Department,
Town Hall,
DROITWICH.

September, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to present to your Council my eighth Annual Report upon the work of my Department during the year 1952, in which I have summarized the many activities with which the Department is concerned.

On reading the report it will be apparent that the rapid post war growth of the town is becoming increasingly felt in every aspect of the Council's work and considerable capital expenditure will soon be necessary particularly in respect of sewage disposal and water supply to cope with this development.

Once again I would thank your Council for the support given to me by the Council and the Town Clerk and other Officers and the Staff for continued help and co-operation.

A statement of inspections made during the year is as follows:-

Visits of inspection to Stalls Farm and St. Peters Crescent Estates	166
Visits to Direct Labour and contract works	278
Inspections of New Buildings under Building Byelaws	393
" re maintenance of highways	144
" re public water supply	46
" re factories including bakehouses	9
Visits re maintenance of Canal	9
Inspections of Food Shops	36
Visits to Council Houses re repairs	85
" re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip	89
" re supervision of Parks & Public Open Spaces	123
Samples taken for analysis including milk, sewage water, ice cream and swimming bath water	32
Number of houses inspected for housing defects	117
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded	123
Inspections in respect of Building Byelaws and Planning Scheme	36
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work	58

NEW HOUSING.

This year saw the completion of the Stalls Farm Estate with the exception of the provision of the shops. Twelve bungalows for aged persons were completed and occupied early in the year and there is little doubt that they are filling a very great need. Further provision for elderly persons upon the Chawson Estate should receive the Council's early consideration.

Work at St. Peters Crescent proceeded well, 56 non-traditional houses of "Wates" design being completed and occupied. During the course of their erection a sharp increase in prices occurred which was immediately reflected in the house rents. Consequently, the Council reviewed their policy and decided to revert to traditional houses consisting of flats and small three-bedroom houses. Thirty six flats of the Gregory type were about to be commenced at the close of the year.

Continued -

Much thought was given to planning ahead and land for the 1954 housing programme was reviewed and it was decided to purchase 93.377 acres known as the New Wotton and Chawson Estates. The Council continuing their policy of providing land for re-sale for private development by the use of 35.872 acres forming the Wotton Estate, the Chawson Estate being for Council house building. The Ministry of Housing & Local Government confirmed in September the purchase of the land by the Council and by the end of the year a draft development plan had been prepared and submitted.

The sale of land owned by the Council in Hanbury Road for private development was commenced.

A notable increase in the number of licences issued for private building occurred, and the Council negotiated with builders for the erection of houses by them for sale to persons nominated by the Council, the Council agreed to provide continuity of licences and work to endeavour to reduce prices. One local builder took up this scheme and by the end of the year had completed 4 houses and 6 were in the course of erection. The cost of these houses was £2,250 for a detached house and £2,000 for a semi-detached. 18 houses were completed by individual private licences during the year and 22 were in course of erection. A new method of house erection by means of a Housing Society was approved by the Council, agreement being reached with the Broadcasting Employees Housing Society Ltd. for the erection of sixteen houses at the St. Peters Crescent Estate for occupation by employees of the Broadcasting Corporation. These houses were commenced in August. The Council decided not to give the rate subsidy to these dwellings.

Tenders were invited for the redevelopment of the Old Vicarage Site in Friar Street but after much negotiation a satisfactory tender could not be obtained and this scheme accordingly had to be postponed.

HOUSING AND APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

Allocation of tenancies has continued on the basis of the Points Scheme. The list of applicants was under review at the end of the year and though not completed it was apparent that the majority of applicants now awaiting tenancies were of comparatively recent origin i.e. 2 - 3 years. This position I feel rather calls for the Council to review the question as to whether the time has not come for the recommencement of slum clearance schemes. Possibly this work could be approached by allocating a percentage of all Council houses now built for the rehousing of the tenants from unfit property which prior to the rehousing of the tenants, should be placed under Demolition Orders followed by clearance after becoming vacant.

At present there are numbers of unfit houses not capable of repair at reasonable cost, the rents are very low and the houses should be demolished.

Complaints are received from time to time about repairs to property not bad enough for demolition but not in all respects fit for habitation. Frequently the rents are out of all proportion to the cost of the repairs and difficulty is encountered in getting the repairs carried out. This position does appear to be rather a national problem but it is important, otherwise this lower-rented property which fulfills a great need will fall into disrepair and eventually be lost, the tenants having to be re-housed at the Council's expense.

Grants under the Housing Act 1949 might assist in certain cases but to date your Council's policy has been not to make such grants.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Efforts have continued by periodic inspections and discussions, with purveyors of food in its many forms to effect an improvement in conditions. This work was begun last year and is now showing results. With one exception all traders have fitted glass screens to their counters as protection for unwrapped goods against contamination, hot and cold water is available for employees washing facilities and the covering of floors with sawdust or similar material to prevent dust rising has generally been discontinued, the floors being scrubbed regularly.

A number of samples of Ice Cream or Ice Lollies has been taken and of 29 samples, all have proved satisfactory.

In one instance Ice Lollies were found to be manufactured on unregistered premises, but when the position was explained to the manufacturer the preparation and sale was discontinued.

The factory in Vines Lane for the manufacture of Ice Cream is still in operation and a good product has been maintained. The manufacturers are co-operative, keen to prepare a hygienic product and are themselves regularly testing at their premises the bacterial purity of the products manufactured, which to date have been satisfactory.

A number of visits of inspection have been made to the various factory canteens which have been maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition, the managements being co-operative. The use of chipped cups was found to be widespread and as a source of contamination is much to be deprecated. The use of plastic cups was suggested to the firms who are giving the matter consideration.

SCAVENGING AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection service has operated satisfactorily during the year with a thrice weekly collection from the hotels.

Following a week's trial, the Council placed on order a 16 cub. yard Fore and Aft Loader Shelvoke & Drewry Collector and this very hygienic vehicle should mean that all refuse can at present be collected in it, including that from hotels, thus dispensing with the most insanitary method of collection by open lorry. Also it should not normally be necessary to hire haulage for refuse collection. This larger vehicle will permit some expansion of collection without recourse to additional vehicles.

Salvage has been collected as follows :-

	T.	C.	Q.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed Waste Paper	31	5	3	293	18	11
Newspapers		10	3	9	16	9
Books & Magazines	1	0	3	4	3	0
Scrap Iron	3	12	3	14	7	1
Total Value				£322	5	9

Night soil from outlying premises with pail closets has been collected weekly.

A three-monthly emptying of street gullies by contract has continued without complaint.

Street sweeping of the town centre has been operated daily

Continued -

and the remainder of the town weekly with the exception of one length in Witton which was done fortnightly.

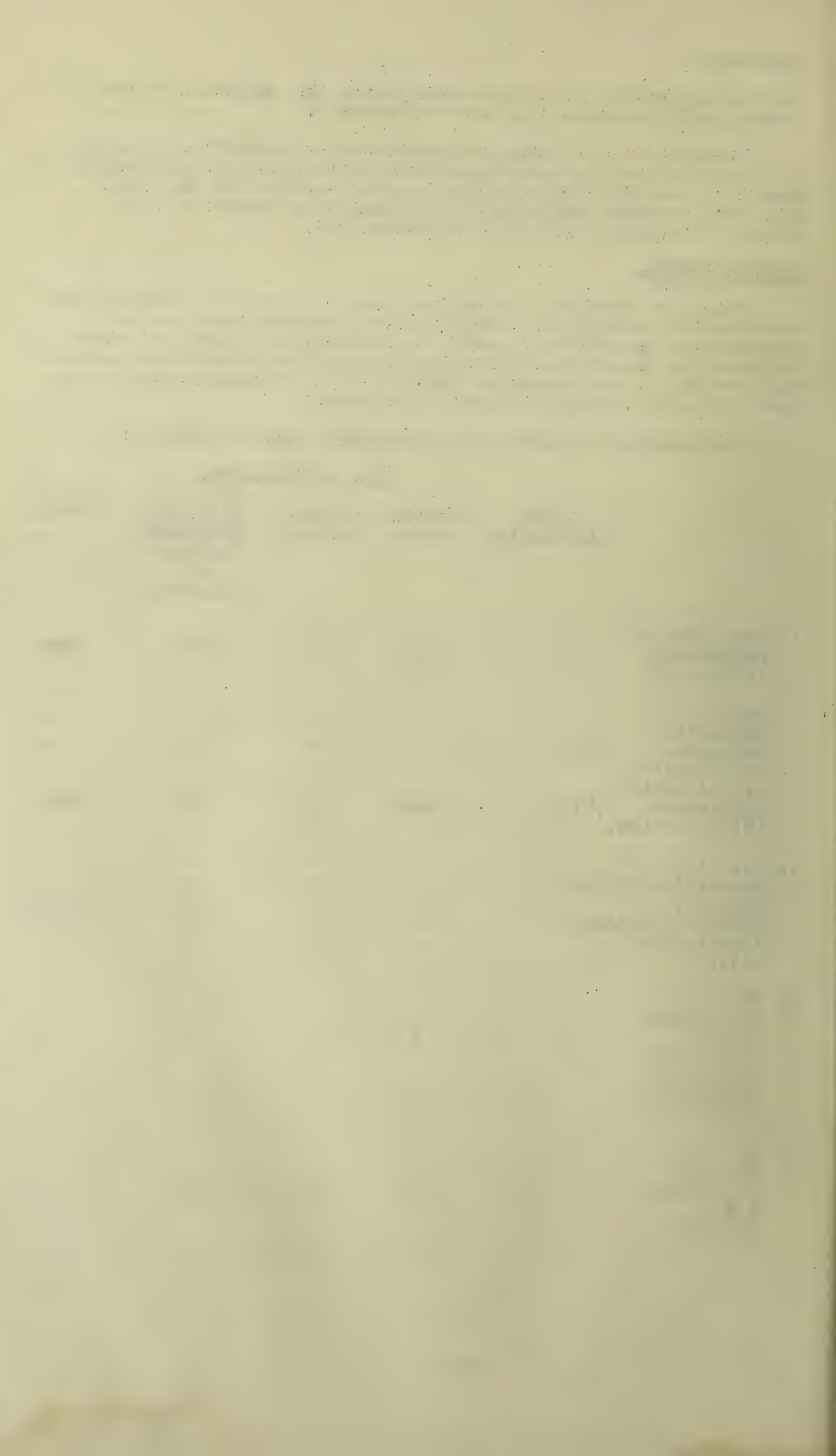
Disposal of the refuse has continued by controlled tipping. It is most desirable that the natural soil at the foot of the tip should be used for covering down the tip surface and the face. This work requires mechanical plant and it is essential if a properly controlled tip is to be maintained.

RODENT CONTROL.

This work continued during the year, the Operator taking over these duties bi-monthly. Practically the whole town has been surveyed and as will be seen by the statistics a number of minor infestations discovered. Premises subject to infestation, such as the Town Mills, are inspected regularly and systematically, as are also the sewers, refuse tip and river banks.

The schedule of surveys and treatments are as follows :-

	Type of Property.				Total.
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
1. Total No. of properties in Borough.	9	1722	11	185	1927
2. No. of properties inspected	(a) -	3	-	19	22
as a result of (a) notifi- cation or	(b) 9	944	9	52	1014
(b) otherwise.					
3. No. of properties	Major 1	-	-	-	1
under 2.	Minor 5	31	7	9	52
found to be infested by rats.					
4. No. of properties under 2.	-	3	-	1	4
found to be seriously infested by mice.					
5. No. of infested properties	6	34	-	10	50
3 & 4 treated.					



SAMPLING.

The following samples were taken for analysis during the year:-

Ice Cream	By Local Authority	11.)	29.
	By Manufacturers	18.)	
Swimming Pool Water	By Local Authority	3.)	7.
	By Owners.	4.)	
Town Water.	By Local Authority	3	3.
Sewage Effluent	"	4)	8.
" Crude	"	4)	

HIGHWAYS.

The whole of the Class III and District roads were surface dressed and maintained in satisfactory order during the year.

The lower end of Union Lane was widened and the retaining wall at the front of Croft House rebuilt by the owner with the assistance of the Council. It is hoped that the very narrow corner in the centre of this road may be widened at an early date. In the meantime, consideration was being given to Winnetts Lane and Union Lane being designated as one-way streets.

The footpath was continued down Ricketts Lane in conjunction with the development of the Bowling Green and a piece of waste land adjacent to the Canal was surfaced for use as a Car Park.

A service road for the use of private property in Hanbury Road was commenced and this will be continued as houses are completed.

Unfortunately, permission was not obtained for the Wagwell Road/Newland Road Improvement which is badly needed and with building progressing apace the need becomes even more pressing.

Footpath improvement was carried out in St. Peters Walk Steynors Avenue and Corbett Avenue.

Your policy of tree planting continued.

A notable tree planting scheme was that in Lyttelton Road to commemorate the memory of His Majesty King George VI.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The year has been remarkable in the number of major blockages occurring in the main sewers. These were all successfully cleared, the worst in Union Lane being caused by a stair rod. The latter was the subject of a detailed report which I think need not again be detailed.

Many of the old manholes are in poor condition and require channels placing in them as at present they are really catchpits. There are also defective manhole covers in the town which require replacement. These are being replaced gradually one by one.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been maintained in fair order, trouble was experienced by the central distributor pillars of two of the filters becoming badly worn and defective. Owing to difficulties of delivery these could not be replaced for several months, during which period the effluent deteriorated from its usually good standard.

The works as at present are becoming overloaded and before long as the town grows extensions to the disposal works will be necessary.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water continued to be purchased from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company and was satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

Consumption during 1952 was 103,652,600 gallons averaging 284,000 gallons per day as compared with 273,300 gallons per day in 1951.

789 taps and 333 ball valves were washered or adjusted.

Negotiations for the renewal of the Agreement to purchase are proceeding with the Company.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

Your various parks and open spaces were maintained during the year. The Vines Park Bowling Green was completed and is a notable improvement to a derelict area of land. It is to be hoped that the remainder of this area to the east of Ricketts Lane will be developed as a park in the not too distant future.

The use of the King George Playing Field continues to grow and the Council were considering a much needed extension adjacent to Ombersley Road. At present the field is much overworked and while so used it cannot be maintained in really good order.

Additional work in the form of grass islands at Stalls Farm Estate was completed and these were cut regularly.

Covercroft was completed and the island and shrub bed at the side were grassed down.

DROITWICH CANAL.

No further progress was made towards the badly needed cleaning out or complete abandonment of the Canal.

I am, Your Worship, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON.

Chartered Municipal Engineer.
Borough Engineer Surveyor &
Sanitary Inspector.

